

Good Afternoon!

I am Paul Studivant, Division Chief of
St Johns County Animal Control.

And the Florida Animal Control
Association (FACA) Representative:

ESF 17: Animal Protection

The Florida Animal Control Association is the subject matter expert when it comes to companion animals and can be a resource for other animal issues of concern for ESF-17 Response

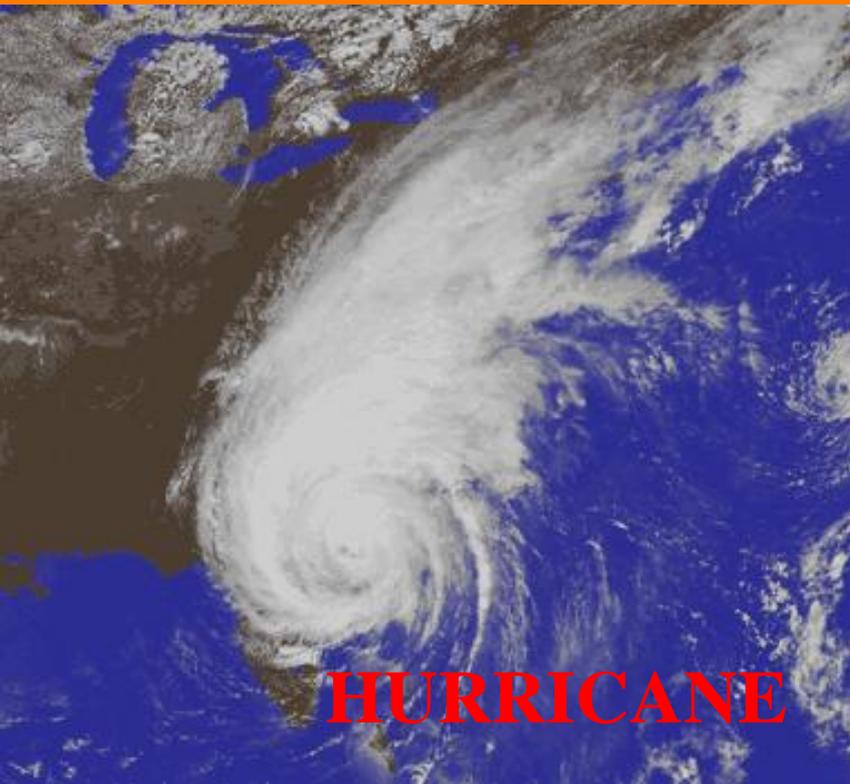
Whether it be.....



fire



flood



HURRICANE



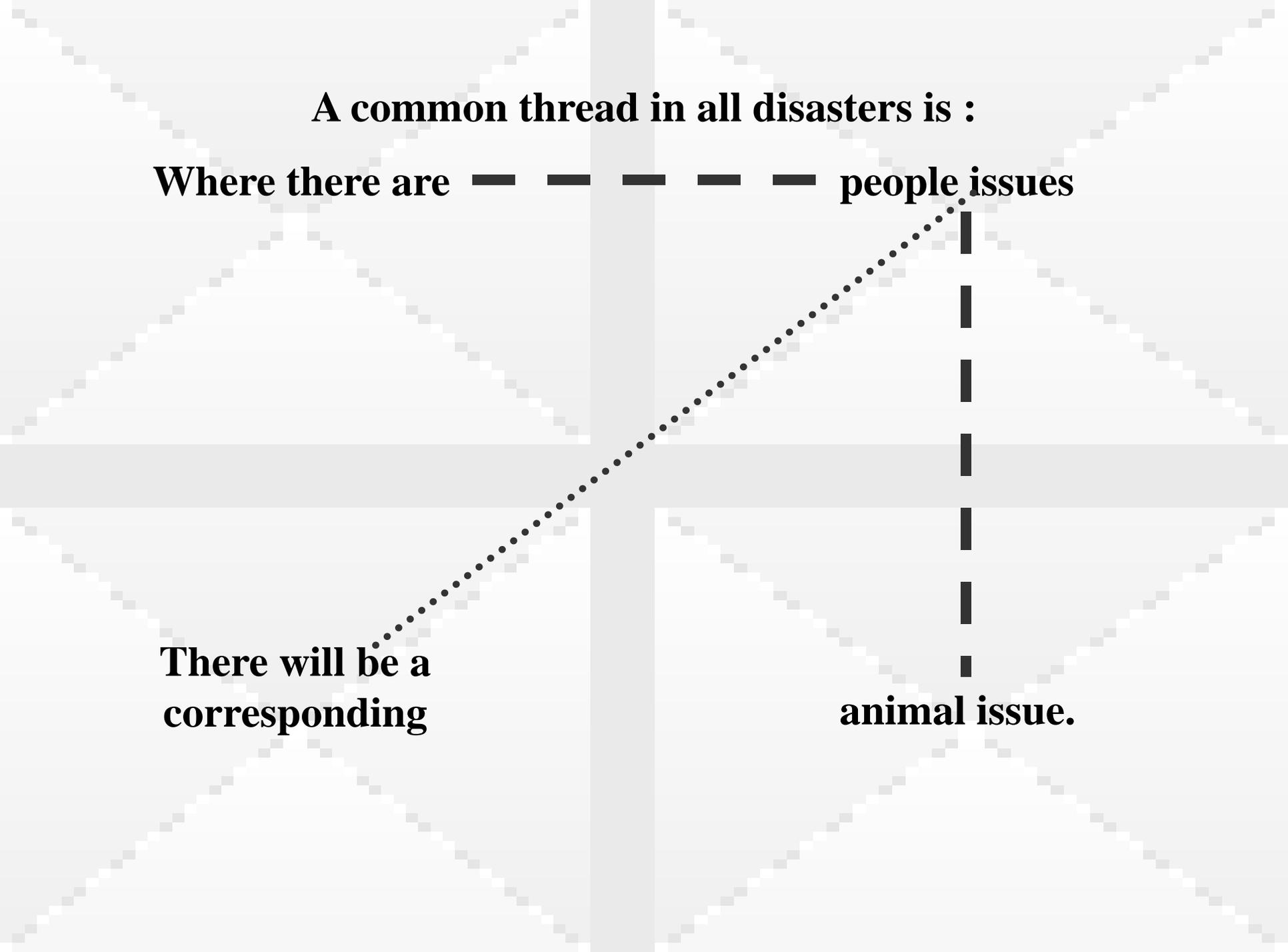
Or foreign animal disease outbreak

A common thread in all disasters is :

Where there are — — — — — people issues

**There will be a
corresponding**

animal issue.



The

why

is

simple:



Animals

belong

to

people

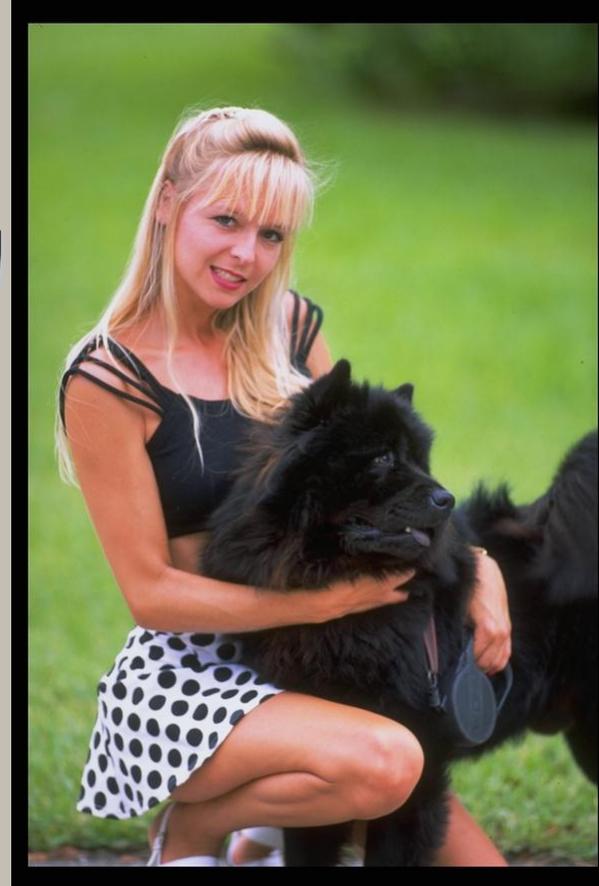
either emotionally as pets,

friends,

companions,

or

replacement for lost family members.....

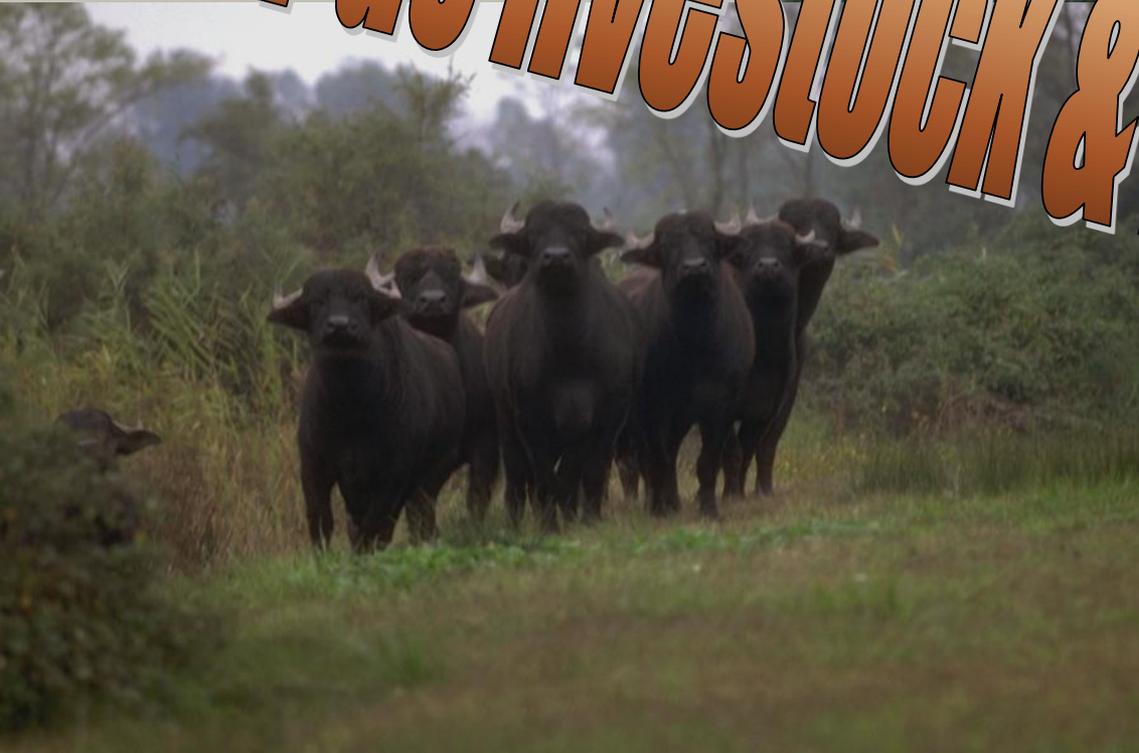




COWORKERS



Or as livestock & livelihood.



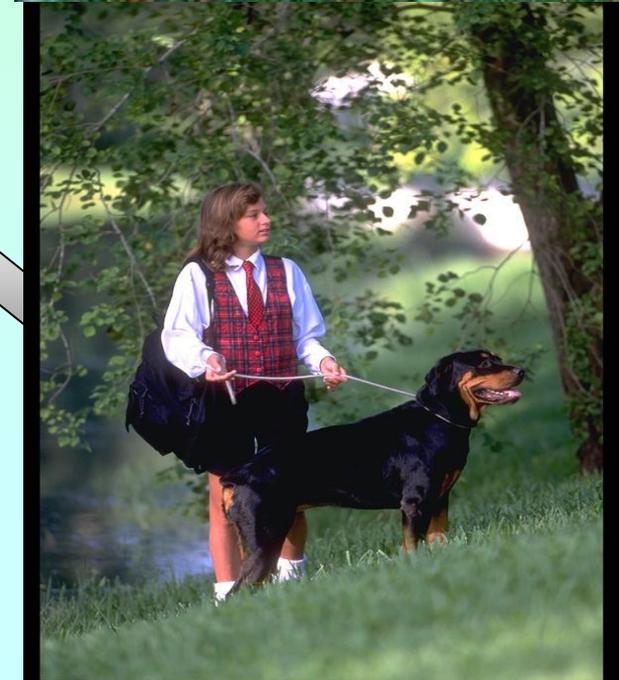


These bonds are real



Photo by Cabal

**and as strong
as steel cable.**



Today, meeting the needs of people is not the only concern with disasters. Animals have taken a new place in preparedness, planning and legal requirements.

Some people will not leave a disaster without their animals even if it puts their life in danger. Likewise if they have an animal at home they will want to get to that animal or have someone get to that animal in and after a disaster. We must understand these issues to properly prepare.

Basic things that need protection:

- Family
 - Residences/Homes
 - Personal Property/Possessions
 - Pets
-
- What is the most important?



When asked, which one they would want given a rescue priority ...family and pets nearly tie as the top priority, this is how we now think of pets

Florida has designated

Emergency Support Function 17

**as the support function for
Animal Issues during all emergencies.**

Primary responsibility for ESF-17: Animal Protection rests with

The local ESF-17 Coordinator

**Through the Local
Emergency Management Agency**

**why choose the local animal care
and control agency
for this role.....**

it is the most logical selection.....

First:

When the local, or state, or the federal government issues an Emergency Declaration, as a county agency, our public resources become available to the citizens at risk.

There is legal authority for animal control officers similar to law enforcement and code enforcement officials making them first responders.

Volunteer groups, industry or private industry alone cannot offer these total resources.

Someone needs to be in charge that has a permanent stake in the local area and has a true responsibility to the citizens (i.e. local government)

Second:

Statutory Authority mandates through Chapter 252...

252.38 Emergency management powers of political subdivisions.--Safeguarding the life and property of its citizens is an innate responsibility of the governing body of each political subdivision of the state.

252.34 Definitions.--As used in SS. 252.31-252.60, the term:

(1) "Disaster" means any natural, technological, or civil emergency that causes damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to result in a declaration of a state of emergency by a county, the Governor, or the President of the United States.

Third:

Our state certified, trained animal care professionals, and our valued contacts with volunteer and other organizations that are ready to assist in an effected area.

This means in a real emergency situation no emergency can occur that we cannot have a person on scene to assist our citizens in less time than an outside group that may not know the area or may have to be dispatched from a distance. Animal Control has experience in responding within an hour to emergency calls every day.

***IT IS THE GOAL OF ESF-17
ANIMAL PROTECTION***

**To provide rescue, protective care,
feeding and identification of
animals separated from their
owners.**

**And to provide for public health
and safety.**

FACA Can Provide:

- 1. Expertise**
- 2. Experience**
- 3. Training**
- 4. Special Skills/Equipment**
- 5. Highly Trained Animal Handlers**
- 6. State Certified Staff for Chemical Immobilization and Euthanasia when Required**

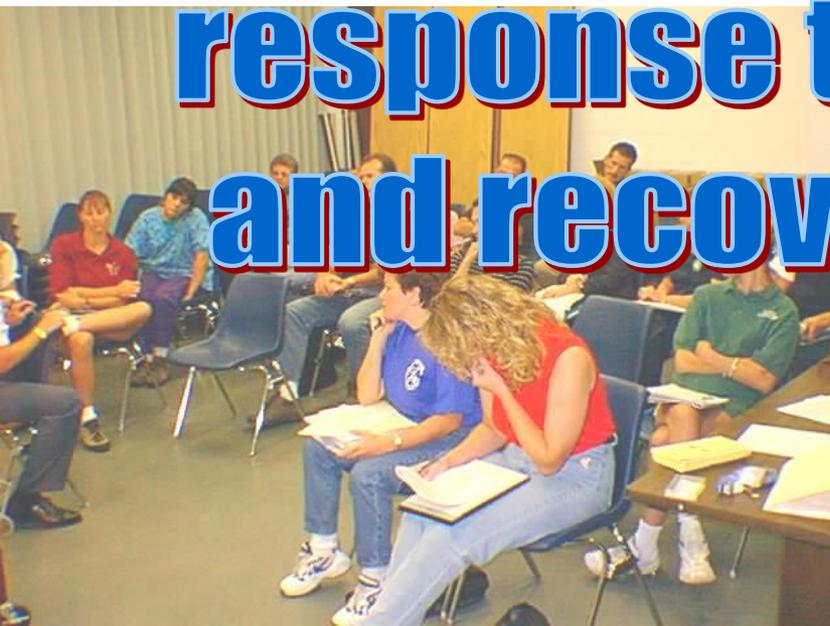
FACA's Mission is to provide professional support and companion animal expertise for disaster and ESF-17 response. Through experience, education, and expertise.

The Florida response to Katrina has shown that FACA agencies are able to work as a very cohesive and professional group even with members from different agencies working together. That is due to the training and continued support provided by FACA to animal control agencies throughout the state.



This is done through mitigation activities, preparedness plans,

response to emergencies, and recovery operations.



Some of the Resources:

Florida Animal Control Association

Florida Veterinary Medical Association

Florida Cattlemen's Association

DART

Disaster Animal Response Team

EARS

Emergency Animal Rescue Service

Sunshine Horse Council

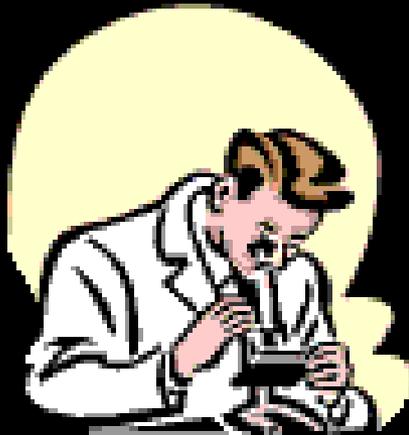
FACA can assist with... emergency disease control...





**coordination of evacuation
and rescue...**

**temporary confinement, shelter, food and
water for displaced animals...**



*prevent or control the spread
of disease of public health
significance*

**and assisting with the
disposal of dead animals.**

Our Policies

**ESF 17 will be implemented
at the request of the local
Emergency Operations Center.**

Our Policies

**ESF 17 may seek assistance from
animal control agencies,
humane or volunteer organizations,
livestock or farming organizations,
or other animal industry or govt. agencies.**

Our Policies

**ESF 17 works through
the County's Designated
Animal Issues Coordinator
only.**

A disaster's effects may be larger than the abilities of the local agency to handle, and far exceed its available resources and as such we have to have well defined support agencies and develop partnerships to assist us.



USDA



Partners In Protection



Law Enforcement
Marine Patrol





AVMA



**Partners
in
Protection**



FACA

A small map of the state of Florida, showing its outline and internal county boundaries, positioned to the right of the text "FACA".

**That old saying that
a chain is only as strong as its weakest link**

**is never more true
than in Disaster Management.**

**Local,
county,
state,
and federal response agencies**

**must maintain the strength of the chain by having well defined
and written MOUs, or plans .**

**FACA will not serve as a replacement for lack of planning, but
will help fill a support function to the local plans when
resources are needed.**